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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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2. Poskrebyshv has been a Party member since 1917 and worked in Turkestan until 1924. He then became People's Commissar for Nationalities which was later changed to the Commission for Nationalities.
3. In the late twenties when Bashanov defected, Poskrebyshv replaced him as Stalin's personal secretary. Under the 17th Congress, 28 Jan to 10 Feb 34, Poskrebyshv was elected a delegate. Since then he has headed the Secretariat of Stalin. Poskrebyshv is called in Moscow, "Rasputin of the Kremlin." He wields the greatest influence on Stalin, perhaps more than anyone else in Moscow. No one is allowed to contact Stalin, by telephone or otherwise, without Poskrebyshv's approval. Even close "friends" such as Malenkov or Molotov have to pass through Poskrebyshv. His office is next to Stalin's. Very frequently certain matters are turned over to Poskrebyshv for handling in the name of Stalin, and he makes decisions which are carried out explicitly in the name of the boss. Poskrebyshv is most devoted to his boss, who trusts him completely, and who is his only friend. He does not associate with anyone else, at least not publicly. Poskrebyshv works all hours of the day and night. He is always on duty, when Stalin is present as well as when the boss is away.

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